

Facility: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Title: Proposed Maintenance Operations Complex and Residence

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

For the reasons briefly presented below and based on an evaluation of the information contained in the supporting references enumerated below, I have determined that the proposal to locate the new Maintenance Operations Complex on 20 acres of Service owned property off of Carver Highlands Drive and the Refuge Residence on two acres of Service owned property directly off of Carver County Road 45 within the Rapids Lake Unit for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge as described in Alternative A of the attached Environmental Assessment is not a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. An Environmental Impact Statement will, accordingly, not be prepared.

Reasons:

The proposed sites consist of previously disturbed lands free of hazardous materials and are under Fee Title by the Service located in close proximity to one another.

Each proposed site is adequate in size and location to accommodate full development and not create conflict with public use facilities while meeting the requirements of Carver County Ordinance No. 47 and associated Land and Water Management Plans.

Both sites are located on upland territory with future potential to be centrally located within authorized Refuge boundaries and development at each site would not be visually intrusive.

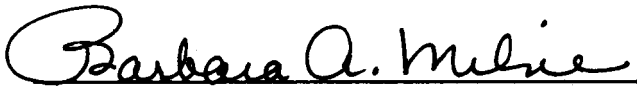
Additionally, the proposal for development of a new Maintenance Complex and Refuge Residence at Rapids Lake when completed would:

- Provide a much greater opportunity to meet the Service Priority Public Uses and the Refuge goals with maintenance facilities conducive to promoting understanding, appreciation and support for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Wetland Management District as well as the entire National Wildlife Refuge System.
- Provide better Service identification and improve awareness of Refuge resource values and management activities.
- Provide improved administration, operations and public use of the Refuge.
- Provide a safe working environment with sufficient space to meet functional needs of the Refuge staff.

-Provide long-range site stability and flexibility.

Supporting References:

1. Environmental Assessment
2. Section 7 Consultation


Acting Regional Director, FWS, Region 3

Date: 06-13-03

Distribution:

Wash., DC (OEC)
State Clearinghouse